

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
November 13, 2012

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

Excused: Kochenburger

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2012 minutes as corrected. Motion passed by all.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Anthony Kotula, Maple Road, requested the Council consider adding a new budget line for an annual Veterans' Day luncheon. (Statement attached)

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, concurred with Mr. Kotula's suggestion regarding a Veterans' Day luncheon. Mr. Hossack also warned the Council not to be manipulated by UConn when it comes to new water sources.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, agreed with the statements of the two previous speakers. Ms. Wassmundt questioned why an appraiser was hired to evaluate the two parcels under consideration for open space when we have an appraiser on staff. She also requested the public be provided with copies of the appraisals and the latest assessments.

Erin Clark, Crane Hill Road, spoke in support of keeping Southeast School, as the site has plenty of water, few traffic problems and sufficient land.

Cindy Wells, Wormwood Hill Road and Southeast PTO President, asked the Council to consider holding a referendum on the Middle School Project only and at that time conduct a survey to gauge the preferences of the public.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report the Town Manager provided the following comments:

- The Veterans' Day Luncheon was a very nice event. Mr. Hart thanked the Committee and the participants for their efforts.
- Mr. Hart extended his congratulations to all the candidates who won on Election Day and stated he is looking forward to working with our legislators.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Moran thanked the Registrars of Voters for all their work in preparation for the Election, noting the day went very smoothly.

Mr. Freudmann expressed concern regarding the Environmental Impact Evaluation currently under review; given that on October 9, 2012 an ad ran indicating the University would like to reduce their involvement with water.

Mr. Shapiro agreed with the comments regarding the Town's efforts to provide much needed assistance to citizens during the storm.

Mayor Paterson noted she too has heard from many residents who appreciated the efforts of the Town during the storm. The Mayor attended an opera at the Storrs Congregational Church and was pleased to see two local performers, Charles Eaton and Spencer Hamlin.

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Mr. Paulhus commented the Veterans' Day luncheon went very smoothly at its new location in the Community Center.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to move Item 4, School Building Project-CREC Services, as the next item of business.

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Storrs Center Update

Town Manager Matt Hart reported progress is being made on the sidewalks; the street lamps are awaiting utilities; additional businesses are opening, and the Planning and Zoning Commission is still discussing the changes requested by Price Chopper.

Temporary lighting was not a viable solution to the lack of streetlights in the downtown area and so the developer has requested the businesses keep their lights on all night, have painted lines on the steps, and have placed decorative planters in crucial locations. Progress on Wilbur Cross Way is on schedule.

2. Community Water/Wastewater Issues

Excerpts from the EIE were distributed to the Council. The document has also been forwarded to a variety of committees who will explore the contents in more detail. The Town Manager recommended gathering the comments from the various advisory boards and presenting them to the Council for consideration. The public hearing will take place on December 11th at 7:00 pm in the Bishop Center. The EIE was prepared for UConn but the Town is a partner in the process and has conducted a number of well testings as its contribution to the project.

The Town Manager also reported UConn does have an interest in divesting themselves of their off-campus water service. The Town will need assistance in reviewing the governance options this change will offer. The Manager suggested additional legal advice may be required.

3. Amendment to Building Construction Ordinance and Rescission of Fees for Fire Prevention Services Ordinance

Ms. Keane, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee moved, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on December 10, 2012, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed amendments to the Building Construction Ordinance (Chapter 107 of the Mansfield Code) and the proposed rescission of the Fees for Fire Prevention Services Ordinance (Chapter 122, Article VI of the Mansfield Code).

Ms. Keane noted the amendment is revenue neutral and will provide a better distribution of work and adjustments to the fee schedule.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

4. School Building Project – CREC Services

Town Manager Matt Hart recognized Robert Saunders and Roger LaFleur who introduced the Council to some of the services CREC provides including assisting with the understanding of the rules of the State Department of Education, providing a peer review of existing data, and offering recommendations and guidance through the reimbursement process. In response to Councilors' questions, Mr. LaFleur offered to review the Town's ability to renovate like new under the Department of Education's guidelines. He will provide the report at no cost for the Town. Director of Finance Cherie Trahan joined the discussion.

Mr. Freudmann stated he believes the Council has enough information to make a decision and offered the following motion:

The School Building Project shall consist of renovations or repairs to the existing schools on a pay as you go basis and will not involve either the construction of new elementary schools or bonding.

Mr. Ryan raised a point of order questioning the relevance of the motion to the subject under discussion.

Mayor Paterson ruled the motion out of order.

Council members discussed the lack of a clear direction from the public, the fact that CREC has no vested interest in the outcome, CREC's relationship with the State Department of Education and their ability to explore eligibility requirements for renovations.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Moran seconded to request a proposal from CREC outlining various owner's representation services which they could provide the Town. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Freudmann who voted against the motion.

5. Proposed Open Space Acquisition – Marshall Property

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective November 13, 2012, to refer the proposed acquisition of the 17-acre Marshall property to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on November 26, 2012 to solicit public comment regarding the proposed land purchase.

Mr. Freudmann requested the amount of local taxes currently paid for the property be included in the financial impact statement. If the property is not purchased the cost of the appraisal will be borne by the Open Space budget.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Freudmann who voted against the motion.

6. Proposed Open Space Acquisition – Malek Property

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Schaeffer seconded, effective November 13, 2012, to refer the proposed acquisition of the 26.25-acre Malek property to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on November 26, 2012 to solicit public comment regarding the proposed land purchase. The appraisal and assessment information will be provided to the Council and the public. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Freudmann who voted against the motion.

7. Adjustments to Easements for Storrs Road and Wilbur Cross Way

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to refer the transactions for the adjustment to the easements for Storrs Road and Wilbur Cross Way to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review pursuant Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes. At the public hearing the engineering staff will provide information on the adjustments. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Financial Statements Dated September 30, 2012

Finance Committee Chair Bill Ryan moved, effective November 13, 2012, to accept the Financial Statements Dated September 30, 2012, as submitted by the Director of Finance.

Mr. Ryan reported the Committee reviewed the statements and found no problems. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Town Manager's Performance Review and FY2012/13 Compensation

Personnel Committee Chair Toni Moran moved effective as of July 1, 2012, to increase the Town Manager's annual salary to \$138,405.11.

Ms. Moran described the collaborative effort on behalf of the Personnel Committee who gathered information from both Councilors and Senior Staff. The feedback the Committee received was very positive and laudatory. Ms. Moran, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, congratulated Mr. Hart on his high level of performance.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. Town Manager's Employment Agreement

Personnel Committee Chair Toni Moran moved to approve the following resolution:
Resolved, to authorize the Mayor to execute the proposed Town Manager Employment Agreement between the Town of Mansfield, Connecticut and Matthew W. Hart, for a three-year term commencing on December 1, 2012 and expiring on November 30, 2015.
The motion passed unanimously.

11. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves – Statement of Support

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective November 13, 2012, to authorize the Mayor to sign the attached Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.
The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

VIII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

No comments offered.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Chair of the Finance Committee Bill Ryan reported the Committee met and reviewed the Financial Statements Dated September 30, 2012 which were approved earlier in the meeting.

Reporting for the Chair of the Committee on Committees, Mr. Shapiro offered the following recommendations for appointments:

Agriculture Committee: Alan Cyr, Charles Galgowski, Kathleen Paterson, Bryan Kielbania, and Welsey Bell (alternate). These are two year terms with an expiration date of 10/13/2014.

Vicky Wetherell be appointed to the Open Space Preservation Committee for a term ending 12/31/2015.

Will Bigl be reappointed to the Commission on Aging for a term ending 9/1/2015.

Fred Goetz be appointed as the Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities representative on the Human Services Advisory Committee.

Jeanne Mogayzel be appointed to the Cemetery Committee for a term ending 7/1/2013.

The motion to approve the recommendations passed unanimously.

Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter and Natural Resource and Sustainability Coordinator Jennifer Kaufman discussed the appointment of members to the steering committee and various working groups for the HUD Mansfield Tomorrow grant with the Committee on Committees. The Committee is open to assisting in the appointment of members if that is determined to be the proper course.

Chair of the Personnel Committee Toni Moran reported the Personnel Committee has been working on the Town Manager's evaluation and contract. Both of which were approved earlier this evening.

Ms. Moran also reported the Ad Hoc Committee on a Responsible Contractors Ordinance has met and is starting each meeting with a public comment period. The Committee is looking at all sides of the issue, drafting a list of questions to ask and discussing potential invitees.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

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- 12.M. Hart re: Appointments to the Economic Development Commission
- 13.M. Hart re: Appointments to the Mansfield Library Advisory Board
- 14.M. Hart re: Reappointments to the Mansfield Youth Services Advisory Board
- 15.Veterans' Committee re: "Celebrating the Living and Remembering the Fallen"
- 16.Legal Notice: Mansfield Zoning Board of Appeals
- 17.The Mansfield Minute, November 2012
- 18.Proclamation re: In Honor of Mansfield Veterans
- 19.Proclamation re: Recognizing Storrs Congregational Church
- 20.Press Release: Mansfield to Honor Veterans
- 21.Public Hearing: Historic District Commission
- 22.Press Release: Gov. Malloy Launches Connecticut's Innovation Ecosystem
- 23.Local Early Childhood Councils, "A Structure for Improving Outcomes & Systems for Young Children Birth to Age Eight"
- 24.Connecticut Council of Small Towns re: Connecticut's Town Meeting 2013
- 25.Coventry 300th Anniversary Parade Committee re: Thank you
- 26.Southeast PTO, "School Building Project Survey"
- 27.Wounded Warrior Project re: Benefit Concert

XII. FUTURE AGENDA

The Council 5 year review of the Charter will be scheduled this winter.

A discussion of adding an annual Veterans' Day luncheon to the budget will be discussed during FY2013/14 budget negotiations.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk